

FREDERICK E. RACKER

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Frederick Eugene Racker, son of William E. and Rozilla Racker, was born August 4, 1877, at Lehi, Utah. At the age of eight years he was baptized a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and at the age of twelve was ordained a deacon. His school days were spent in the Lehi public schools. At the age of twelve he started as an apprentice in the printing business with the Lehi Publishing Company, and from the age of fourteen to the age of twenty he was engaged as teamster and clerk in the People's Co-operative Institution.

When war broke out between the United States and Spain, he was one of the first three volunteers from Lehi, and served in the Utah Cavalry during the war with Spain. Not having been engaged in any action during his enlistment in the cavalry, he again re-enlisted in the 24th Infantry and went to the Philippines with the regiment, where he participated in some six or eight engagements with the enemy.

While there he was stricken down with a very severe attack of dysentery and was taken to the hospital at Manila where he remained several weeks and was then sent over to the United States, having become so weak that he had to be carried on board the ship that brought him to San Francisco. After several months treatment in the hospital in the Praesidio; he obtained his release and came home.

On the 31st of July, 1900, he was married to Miss Orpha Adams of American Fork, Utah. Soon after his marriage, he again engaged as clerk and later as a miner until June, 1904, at which time he again enlisted in the United States Army, and this time he was assigned to the 29th infantry, Company G, and served as clerk of the company for a period of several months.

Having obtained a knowledge of printing in his youth, he was detailed as post printer and on the 12th of April, 1905, he was detailed as school teacher at the post.

He was very much beloved by his comrades and highly respected by the officers of his company.

On Sunday, the 23rd of April, 1905, he died in the post hospital from a very acute attack of dysentery and cramps. Tuesday following he was escorted by the full garrison at Fort Douglas with great military honors, commanded by Capt. Wells, Adjutant-General and Commanding Officer of the post, the cortege being preceded by the post Band.

He died in full fellowship in the faith of the gospel, and he always had a firm belief in the principles of the same, and so expressed himself to his parents the last time he talked to them.